

HOUSE BILL 945

By Brooks H

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
Chapter 4, Part 9, relative to the Tennessee
HOPE scholarship.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-902, is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated subdivision:

() "HiSET[®]" means the High School Equivalency Test credential awarded by a state-approved institution or organization;

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-902, is further amended by deleting the language "GED[®]," in subdivisions (14) and (34) and substituting instead "GED[®] or HiSET[®],".

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-902(35), is amended by deleting the subdivision in its entirety and substituting instead:

(35) "Student who has obtained a GED[®] or HiSET[®]" means a student who was a Tennessee resident for at least one (1) year prior to obtaining a GED[®] or HiSET[®];

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-905(b)(2), is amended by deleting the subdivision in its entirety and substituting instead:

To be eligible for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship, a student shall have graduated from an eligible high school, graduated from a high school located in Tennessee that is not an eligible high school, completed high school in a Tennessee home school program, or obtained a GED[®] or HiSET[®]. To be eligible for a Tennessee HOPE access grant, a student shall have graduated from an eligible high school. This

subsection (b) shall not apply to those students applying for Wilder-Naifeh technical skills grants.

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-908, is amended by deleting the section in its entirety and substituting instead:

(a) To be eligible for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship as an entering freshman, a student who completes high school in a Tennessee home school program, who graduates from a high school located in Tennessee that is not an eligible high school, or who obtains a GED® or HiSET® credential shall:

(1) Not be ineligible for the scholarship under § 49-4-904;

(2) Meet the requirements of § 49-4-905;

(3)

(A) Attain a composite ACT score of at least 21 on any single ACT test date or a combined SAT score of at least 980 on any single SAT test date, if the student completed high school in a Tennessee home school program or graduated from a high school located in Tennessee that is not an eligible high school; or

(B) Pass the GED® tests with an average score of at least 525, the revised GED® tests with an average score of at least 170, or the HiSET® tests with an average score of at least 15, and attain a composite ACT score of at least 21 on any single ACT test date or a combined SAT score of at least 980 on any single SAT test date; and

(4) Be admitted to and enroll in an eligible postsecondary institution no later than sixteen (16) months after completing high school in a Tennessee home school program, obtaining a GED® or HiSET®, or graduating from high school.

(b) A student who, after January 1, 2014, met the requirements of subdivision (a)(3)(B) shall be awarded a Tennessee HOPE scholarship in the 2014–2015 academic year for the 2013–2014 academic year; provided, that the student:

(1) Was not ineligible for the scholarship under § 49-4-904 and met the requirements of § 49-4-905 in the 2013–2014 academic year while enrolled at an eligible institution;

(2) Did not receive the Tennessee HOPE scholarship in the 2013–2014 academic year; and

(3) Is enrolled in the 2014–2015 academic year in an eligible postsecondary institution.

(c) A student who met the requirements of subdivision (a)(3)(B) shall be awarded a Tennessee HOPE scholarship in the 2014–2015 academic year; provided, that the student:

(1) Is not ineligible for the scholarship under § 49-4-904;

(2) Meets the requirements of § 49-4-905; and

(3) Is enrolled in the 2014–2015 academic year in an eligible postsecondary institution.

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-918, is amended by deleting the language “GED®” wherever it appears in subsections (a) and (b) and substituting instead “GED® or HiSET®”.

SECTION 7. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-926(a), is amended by deleting the language “GED®” wherever it appears and substituting instead “GED® or HiSET®”.

SECTION 8. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-929(b), is amended by deleting the language “GED®” and substituting instead “GED® or HiSET®”.

SECTION 9. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-937(a), is amended by deleting the language “GED®,” and substituting instead “GED® or HiSET®”.

SECTION 10. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015, at 12:01 a.m., the public welfare requiring it.